DECLASSIFIED

TUESDAY
MARCH 31, 1953

Went with Myron at ten o'clock to see Mr. Janssen, Minister of Finance, where we discussed Belgian loans, fiscal position, etc. Also, I put in a plug for the European Army.

At 11:00 we saw Mr. Van Houtte, the 42-year-old Prime Minister. Intelligent and sympathetic man. We used every argument in favor of immediate action by Belgium toward ratifying the EDC treaty, and discussed with him the possible timing. He was somewhat noncommittal but sympathetic.

At noon we called on Colonel de Greef, Minister of National Defense. Comparatively young and charming. I had come up on the plane from Lisbon to Paris after the 1952 NATO Conference with him. He is all in favor of the European Army and will do his best to achieve early ratification.

We picked up Dorothy Cowen and E. and went out to lunch with the Van Zeelands at their house. After lunch we talked with the utmost frankness to Van Zeeland, with André de Staercke and Baron Guillaume present. Guillaume is still Belgian Ambassador to France but is doing temporary duty at the Palace. Van Zeeland definitely committed himself to press at once for ratification regardless of what the other countries do. This is extremely significant and satisfactory.

After lunch we motored to the nearby battlefield of Waterloo, and were fascinated by the gigantic canvas panorama depicting the troop dispositions and activities in the battle.

Myron, André, and I came to town together. Afterwards Myron and I joined the wives to look at the new Embassy building and chancery, which have recently been completed by the Foreign Buildings Office.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CZC DATE 7-1-81
EO☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECLASSIFIED

The residence is a disgrace, abominably planned, extravagantly and vulgarly furnished. The chancery sticks up in the middle of Brussels like a glass and stone advertisement. I agree with Myron that they ought to be sold and we should acquire other more tasteful and less ostentatious properties.

We called on my old friend Camille Gutt at the Banque Lambert. It was good to see him and hear his views on Mossadeq and other topics.

Tonight the Cowens had a dinner for the Papal Nuncio. I sat between Countess Lambert (who had once stayed with me at Staunton Hill) and Marquesa de Casa Mara, the wife of the Spanish Ambassador. Both were excellent companions. Mme. Lambert is highly intelligent, pretty and has lots of personality. Dorothy Cowen is a wonderful hostess; they [redacted] are the kindest and most thoughtful of people to stay with.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY CEC DATE 7-1-81

☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOL EXEMPTIONS _____

DECLASSIFIED